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STATISTICAL SECTION

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SENATE BILL No. ——]

[SESSION 1885.

Submitted by the Board of Health.

ASHE & GATLING, State Printers and Binders.

A BILL TO PROMOTE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF HEALTH.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact :

SECTION 1. The North Carolina board of health is
2 hereby invested with all the powers and duties of the
3 board of public charities, as provided for in the consti-
4 tution of the state, art. xi. sec. 7, and laws of North
5 Carolina, Battle's Revisal, chap. 93.

SEC. 2. That the medical society of North Carolina
2 shall choose from its active members, by ballot, six mem-
3 bers, and the governor shall appoint three other persons
4 (one of whom shall be a civil engineer), and these shall
5 constitute the North Carolina board of health.

SEC. 3. That the North Carolina board of health shall
2 take cognizance of the health interests of the citizens of
3 the state ; shall make sanitary investigations and inqui-
4 ries in respect to the people, employing experts when
5 necessary ; shall investigate the cause of diseases dan-
6 gerous to the public health, especially epidemics ; the
7 sources of mortality ; the effects of locations, employ-
8 ments and conditions upon the public health. They
9 shall gather such information upon all these matters,
10 for distribution among the people, with the especial
11 purpose of informing them about preventable diseases.
12 They shall be the medical advisers of the state, and are
13 herein specially provided for, and shall advise the gov-
14 ernment in regard to the location, sanitary construction

15 and management of all public institutions, upon application
16 of the proper authorities, and shall direct the attention of the state to such sanitary matters as in
17 their judgement affect the industry, prosperity, health
18 and lives of the citizens of the state. The secretary of
19 the board shall make annually to the general assembly,
20 through the governor, a report of their work for the
21 year.

SEC. 4. The members of the board of health, as elected
2 by the state medical society, shall be chosen to serve,
3 two for six years, two for four years, two for two years.
4 Those appointed by the governor shall serve two years.
5 In case of death or resignation, the board shall elect new
6 members to fill the unexpired terms.

SEC. 5. The state board shall have a president and
2 secretary, who shall be treasurer, to be elected from
3 members comprising the board. The president shall
4 serve two years, and the secretary and treasurer six
5 years. The secretary and treasurer shall receive such
6 compensation a year for his services as shall be fixed
7 upon by the board at its annual meeting; but the
8 other members of the board shall receive no pay, except
9 that while on actual duty at meetings of the board,
10 or on duty during the time special investigations are
11 being pursued, each member shall receive \$4.00 a day
12 and necessary travelling expenses. These sums shall
13 be paid by the treasurer on duly authenticated require-
14 ments, signed and approved by the president of the
15 board.

SEC. 6. There shall be an auxiliary board of health
2 in each county in the state. These boards shall be com-
3 posed of the physicians eligible to membership in the
4 state medical society, the mayor of county town, the
5 chairman of the county commissioners, and the city
6 surveyor where there is such an officer; otherwise, the
7 county surveyor. From this number one physician

8 shall be chosen, by ballot, to serve two years, with the
9 title of superintendent of health. His duties shall be to
10 gather vital statistics upon a plan designated by the
11 state board of health. He shall make the medico legal
12 post mortem examinations for coroners' inquests, and
13 attend prisoners in jail, poor-house, work house, and
14 make examination of lunatics for commitment. He
15 shall be the sanitary inspector of the jail and poor-house
16 of his county, making monthly reports to the board of
17 county commissioners. His reports shall be made reg-
18 ularly as advised by the state board through their sec-
19 retary, and he shall receive and carry out, as far as prac-
20 ticable, such work as may be directed by the state board
21 of health.

SEC. 7. The salary of the county superintendent of
2 health is to be paid out of the county treasury upon
3 requisition and the proper vouchers, as follows: The
4 salary of superintendent of health shall be such sum as
5 the county commissioners shall deem just and proper for
6 his services as physician to the public charitable and
7 penal institutions of the county, and as a health officer,
8 on a basis of the medical fees current in the county in
9 which the superintendent serves.

SEC. 8. The biennial meetings for the election of of-
2 ficers shall, after the meeting of organization, be for
3 the county boards on the first Monday in January, and
4 of the state board of health on the first day of the an-
5 nual meeting of the medical society of North Carolina.

SEC. 9. Monthly returns of vital statistics upon a plan
2 to be devised by the state board of health shall be made
3 by the county superintendents, and a failure to report
4 by the tenth of the month, for the preceding month, shall
5 subject the delinquent superintendent to a fine of one
6 dollar for each day of delinquency.

SEC. 10. Inland quarantine shall be under the control
2 of the county superintendent of health, who, acting by

3 the advice of the local board, shall see that diseases dan-
4 gerous to the public health, viz: small pox, scarlet fever,
5 yellow fever, and cholera shall be properly quarantined
6 or isolated, (at the expense of the city or town in which
7 it occurs). Any violation of the rules promulgated on
8 this subject by the superintendent of health shall sub-
9 ject the offender to a fine of two hundred dollars and
10 imprisonment for not longer than twenty days in the
11 county jail. In case the offender be stricken with dis-
12 ease for which he is quarantinable, he will be subject to
13 the penalty on recovery, without, in the opinion of the
14 superintendent, it should be remitted. Quarantine of
15 ports shall not be interfered with, but the officers of the
16 local and state boards shall render all aid in their power
17 to quarantine officers in discharge of their duties upon
18 the request of the latter.

SEC. 11. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES. Wherever and
2 whenever a nuisance upon premises shall exist, which,
3 in the opinion of the county superintendent of health, is
4 dangerous to the public health, it shall be his duty to
5 notify the parties occupying the premises (or the owner,
6 if the premises are not occupied), of its existence, its
7 character and the means of abating it, in writing. Upon
8 this notification the parties shall proceed to abate the
9 nuisance, but failing to do this shall be adjudged guilty
10 of a misdemeanor and shall pay a fine of one dollar a
11 day dating from twenty-four hours after the notification
12 has been served; the amounts so collected to be turned
13 over to the county treasurer: *Provided, however,* that if
14 the party notified shall make oath or affirmation before
15 a magistrate, of his or her inability to carry out the di-
16 rections of the superintendent, it shall be done at the
17 expense of the town, city, or county in which the offender
18 lives. In the latter case the limit of the expense charg-
19 able to the town, city, or county, shall not be more than
20 one hundred dollars in any case.

SEC. 12. VACCINATION. The secretary of the state
2 board of health shall keep a supply of fresh animal vac-
3 cine virus at his command, and he shall issue quantities
4 in value not to exceed one dollar for one requisition, to
5 county superintendents in case of threatened outbreak of
6 small-pox. On the appearance of a case of small-pox
7 in a neighborhood, all due diligence shall be used by
8 the superintendent that warning shall be given, and all
9 persons not able to pay shall be vaccinated free of
10 charge; and the county superintendent shall vaccinate
11 every person admitted into a public institution, (jail,
12 work-house, poor-house, public school,) as soon as prac-
13 ticable, without he is satisfied upon examination that
14 the person is already successfully vaccinated. Two
15 hundred dollars are hereby annually appropriated for
16 this purpose, to be accounted for by the treasurer of the
17 board.

SEC. 13. Bulletins of the outbreak of diseases danger-
2 ous to the public health shall be issued by the state
3 board whenever necessary, and such advice freely dis-
4 seminated to prevent and check the invasion of disease
5 into any part of the state. It shall also be the duty of
6 the board to inquire into any outbreak of disease, by
7 personal visits or by any method the board shall di-
8 rect. The compensation of members on such duty
9 shall be four dollars a day and all necessary travelling
10 expenses.

SEC. 14. Special meetings of the state board of health
2 may be called by the president through the secretary.
3 The regular annual meetings shall be held at the same
4 time and place of the state medical society, at which
5 time the secretary shall submit his annual report.

SEC. 15. Analyses for purposes connected with the
2 hygienic duties of the superintendent of health shall
3 be made by the chemist of the agricultural station upon
4 requisition signed and approved by the secretary of the

5 state board of health. Such analyses will include soil,
6 drinking water, articles of food, air, etc., to be packed
7 for transmission by direction of the chemist of the agri-
8 cultural station.

SEC. 16. For carrying out the provisions of this act,
2 three thousand dollars are hereby annually appropriated,
3 to be paid on requisition signed by the treasurer and
4 president of the state board of health, and the printing
5 and stationery necessary for the board to be furnished
6 upon requisition. A yearly statement shall be made to
7 the state treasurer of all moneys received and expended
8 in pursuance of this act.

SEC. 17. All previous acts conflicting with this are
2 hereby repealed, upon the passage of this act.

SEC. 18. This act is in force from and after its ratifi-
2 cation.

